was closed, as the extension of wet cultivation in its vicinity in consequence of the Kodayar Project rendered it unsuitable for salt culture. The conversion of the lands assigned at Tamaracolam in recent years into factories is proceeding at a rapid pace. The total outturn in the factories rose from 4,81,441 maunds in 1093 to 6,49,388 maunds in 1094, the average yield per acre increasing from 1,356 maunds to 1,857 maunds. Since the close of 1094, a set of rules for the development of local manufacture of salt has been issued under Regulation III of 1088.

10. Abkari, Opium, Ganja and Tobacco.—The construction of the new Sirkar distillery at Nagercoil having been completed, the arrack supply contractor was manufacturing the whole quantity of jaggery-arrack required for his supply area in that distillery for the major portion of 1094. The number of arrack shops fell from 719 to 677. Though the consumption of arrack in 1094 was higher than in 1093, it has to be remembered that in the pre-war year of 1089, the figure was 6·8 per cent more than the quantity consumed in 1094 and hence there was nothing abnormal in the increase. The incidence of taxation on country spirits per head of population rose by about half an anna, the duty on cocoanut toddy arrack being raised from Bh. Rs. 5 to Bh. Rs. 5-as. 10 per gallon. The number of toddy shops at the end of 1094 was only 1,502, against 1,550 in 1093. The total quantity of foreign liquor imported into the State fell from 12,267 gallons in 1093 to 10,727 gallons in 1094, the quantity in 1089 being as high as 36,621 gallons. Only 33 licenses for wholesale vend and 14 licenses for retail vend of this liquor were issued during the year, against 38 and 16 licenses respectively in 1093. The quantities of opium and ganja issued for sale fell from 5,402 seers and 5,453 seers in 1093 to 5,241 seers and 4,933 seers respectively in 1094. There is ample evidence to show that the introduction of the separate shop system has served to bring the vendors under stricter control. The sale prices of both opium and ganja were raised during 1094. The total sales of tobacco fell from 14,668 candies to 13,581 candies.

11. Customs.—The tariff values of jaggery and the produce of the cocoanut tree have been enhanced since the close of 1094. The abolition of the export duty on firewood and charcoal, experimentally tried from 1087, having been found to result in loss to the Government, damage to the State forests and scarcity of supply to local consumers, a duty of 10 per cent *ad valorem* has been reimposed on firewood and charcoal exported from the State, their tariff values being fixed at Bh. Rs. 14 and Bh. Rs. 28, respectively, per ton.

12. The Excise Department.—With a view to cope with increase of work and ensure greater efficiency, the Excise Department, which controls the revenue under 'Salt', 'Abkari', 'Opium and Ganja', 'Tobacco' and 'Customs', has been recently reorganised at an annual additional cost of Rs. 20,154. The salt factories in South Travancore on whose extension and development Government have been bestowing special attention during recent years, have, as a result of this reorganisation, passed under the control of an Assistant Commissioner, and the new distillery at Nagercoil, which, when properly worked, can be made to turn out all the arrack required for consumption in the country, has been placed under the charge of a full-timed Circle Officer. The grades of Inspectors, Petty Officers and peons in the Department have been suitably revised so as to secure increased scope for promotion. The first volume of the Excise Manual, prepared departmentally, was issued during 1093 and the second volume during 1094.

PROTECTION.

13. Legislative Council.—As you are all aware, the constitution of the Legislative Council, which was created by His Highness the Maha Raja in 1063, has been recently revised by Regulation I of 1095. The maximum strength of the Council has been raised from 15 to 25, and for the time being it has been fixed at 24, 13 of the members being officials and 11 non-officials. 8 out of these 11 seats are thrown open for election, 4 by the general electorate, one by the Jenmies who form an important section of the land-owning class, one by the planting community

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which has acquired considerable vested interests in the country, one by the merchants, traders and factory owners, and one by the non-official members of Town Improvement Committees. All adult persons, including women, have a place in the general electorate, the only qualification being the payment of an annual land revenue of not less than Rs. 25 or the possession of an annual income of not less than Rs. 2,000. All graduates of a recognised University, of not less than ten years' standing and having not less than five years' residence in the State, are also qualified to be voters. The three remaining non-official seats have been reserved by the Government for safeguarding the interests of unrepresented minorities. The rights of interpellation and budget discussion have been conferred upon the Council.

14. Central Prison.—The number of prisoners fell from 509 at the close of 1093 to 455 at the close of 1094, the average daily strength of convicted prisoners in 1094 decreasing from 527 to 455. The number of admissions of reconvicted prisoners declined from 192 to 185. That in a year of unprecedented scarcity and high prices there was only so much of serious crime is a matter for genuine satisfaction. The daily average of the sick fell from 6 to 3, and the number of admissions into the hospital from 129 to 102. The revised Jail Rules were brought into force and non-official visitors were appointed as provided for therein.

15. Courts.—In view of the volume of arrears pending in the High Court and in some of the District Courts, sanction has been accorded to the continuance of the temporary Additional Bench in the High Court and the temporary Second Judges' Courts at Nagercoil and Kottayam till the end of 1095. The Additional Munsiff's Court at Tiruvalla was transferred to Changanachery, and a temporary Additional Munsiff's Court was opened at Kottarakara to work up the arrears. Seeing that the six Village Panchayat Courts established in 1092 were turning out good work, the system was extended to the remaining thirteen municipal towns also with effect from the beginning of 1095. A Stationary Second Class Magistrate's Court has been established at Muvattupuzha.

16. Registration.—The compilation of a Manual of Registration, the revision of certain standing orders, and the issue of a code of instructions relating to the inspection work of District Registrars were undertaken by the Director of Registration during 1094. The institution of two departmental examinations was sanctioned by Government to ensure greater efficiency in the work of registration.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

17. Agriculture.—Copies of the report of the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries for 1094 will, as usual, be placed in your hands, from which you will obtain detailed information regarding the working of the Department during the year. The staff of the Department was strengthened by the appointment of a Mycologist who has already had his training in Europe. He is being deputed for a course of further training to the Imperial Research Institute at Pusa, so that he may be thoroughly equipped for dealing with the diseases of tropical crops. The soil survey of Nanchanad, the most important paddy-growing portion of the State, has been completed, and a bulletin on the subject will be soon published. From the experiments so far conducted at the punja experimental farm at Alleppey, it is seen that liming and thorough ploughing in the hot weather are beneficial to punja lands, and that, by the application of suitable manures, those lands may be made to yield a successful crop every year, instead of only in alternate years as at present. From a calculation recently made by Dr. Kunjan Pillai, he has come to the conclusion that, if Travancore should produce all the paddy required for the consumption of her population, she should increase her local production by 1,64,000 tons per annum, and that if all this increase is to be obtained by the sole process of extension of cultivation, an additional area of 1,64,000 acres of double-crop lands should be brought under the plough. There is no scope for this extensive additional area being made available for cultivation. A conference for the discussion of measures calculated to increase the production of paddy in the State was held under my presidency on the 10th

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